



Dear Gale Woods Farm visitor or program participant;

At Gale Woods, visitors have the opportunity to interact directly with livestock. This is a valuable and appealing part of the farm experience. Animals, including the sheep, cattle, chickens and pigs at Gale Woods, can carry infections in their intestines that may be transmitted to people through physical contact with livestock and/or fecal matter. These include *E. Coli*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. A person can become infected if they eat or drink something contaminated or put dirty fingers in their mouth. Symptoms of these infections in people include mild stomach cramps and diarrhea which can sometimes become more severe and include vomiting. While it is not possible to entirely eliminate risk, Gale Woods has protocols in place to limit chances of disease transmission. We want you to be aware of this risk and help prevent illness by following these simple steps.

- Only interact with animals under supervision of staff or trained volunteers.
- Hand washing is required after animal interactions. Proper hand washing requires that soap is worked into a good lather before rinsing.
- Food or drink, pacifiers, and strollers, are not allowed in the barn or pastures.
- Supervise young children to prevent hand-to-mouth activities such as nail biting, thumb sucking, etc. while visiting the farm.
- In cold weather, visitors must remove gloves before touching animals.
- Soiled shoes or clothes may serve as a source of germs after leaving the farm. Please keep farm shoes out of the home and change and launder clothes after a day on the farm.
- Farm visitors assisting with chores and attending programs for multiple days must bring a set of shoes that stay at the farm. Plastic over boots are available for visitors who are unable to bring an extra pair.
- Bring a pair of baggy pants or coveralls to leave on site for the duration of camp to protect clothing.

For more information about diseases associated with livestock please refer to the MN Department of Health website: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/animal/basics.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the farm

Sincerely,
Tim Reese
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